

HOUSE JOINT RESOLUTION 1078

By Hood

A RESOLUTION to honor and congratulate Jeffrey H. Holmes upon being named Commander of the 278<sup>th</sup> Regimental Combat Team.

WHEREAS, our nation was conceived by individuals who were willing to sacrifice their personal safety and concerns to ensure our individual and collective freedom, and the Volunteer State is especially proud to be the home of so many valiant men and women who have performed above and beyond the call of duty; and

WHEREAS, thousands of Tennesseans have continued this time-honored tradition of volunteerism through service in the Tennessee National Guard; and

WHEREAS, the State of Tennessee has been fortunate to have the services of a number of highly competent and experienced general officers to lead the Tennessee National Guard; one such exemplary military professional is Lieutenant Colonel Jeffrey H. Holmes, Commander of the 3<sup>rd</sup> Squadron of the 278<sup>th</sup> Regimental Combat Team, who will assume the command of the 278<sup>th</sup> Regimental Combat Team, Tennessee's largest military unit, in June of 2006; and

WHEREAS, recently returning from a tour of duty with the 3<sup>rd</sup> Squadron of the 278<sup>th</sup> Regimental Combat Team in Iraq, Lieutenant Colonel Holmes commanded Task Force Raider as part of Operation Iraqi Freedom III; and

WHEREAS, Lieutenant Colonel Holmes and Task Force Raider secured two elections, including the initial parliament election in January 2005 and the ratification of the new Iraqi constitution in October of 2005; and

WHEREAS, serving as part of the 1<sup>st</sup> Infantry Division and the 42<sup>nd</sup> Infantry Division, Lieutenant Colonel Holmes and Task Force Raider were awarded Combat patches for their gallant and dutiful military service; and

WHEREAS, during their tour in Iraq, Jeffrey Holmes and Task Force Raider logged over 90,000 miles during more than 4,600 combat patrols and conducted over 50 combat missions; they cleared over 30,000 miles of roadways and trained an Iraqi Army Battalion consisting of over 750 soldiers; this estimable unit also secured over 93 miles of the Iraq-Iran border and trained over 800 Iraqi border police; and

WHEREAS, no stranger to honors and accolades, Jeffrey Holmes has received the Bronze Star, the Meritorious Service Medal, two Army Commendation Medals, six Army Achievement Medals, and the Iraqi Campaign Medal; and

WHEREAS, beginning his military career as an enlisted soldier in 1979, Jeffrey Holmes completed Officer Candidate School at Tennessee Military Academy, and he was commissioned as a 2<sup>nd</sup> Lieutenant in 1984; and

WHEREAS, Lieutenant Colonel Holmes attended the University of Tennessee and graduated with a bachelor's degree in Architecture; he also graduated from the United States Army Command and General Staff College; and

WHEREAS, a professional of the highest order, Jeffrey Holmes is an architect and Senior Vice President of Hart Freeland Roberts, an architectural and engineering services company; and

WHEREAS, his many military and professional accomplishments aside, Jeffrey Holmes is most thankful for the for the love and companionship he shares with his wife, Rhonda, and their marriage has been blessed with three children, Hulon, Leah, and Brice; and

WHEREAS, Jeffrey Holmes is wholly committed to the noble precepts of public service that have earned Tennessee recognition as the "Volunteer State," and he should be specially recognized; now, therefore,

BE IT RESOLVED BY THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES OF THE ONE HUNDRED FOURTH GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF TENNESSEE, THE SENATE CONCURRING, that we honor and congratulate Lieutenant Colonel Jeffrey H. Holmes upon

being named Commander of the 278<sup>th</sup> Regimental Combat Team, commend his dutiful military service in Operation Iraqi Freedom III, recognize his bravery while fighting to protect the freedoms and principles we all hold dear, and wish him every success in all future endeavors.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that an appropriate copy of this resolution be prepared for presentation with this final clause omitted from such copy.